

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 03151 170709Z
ACTION PM-05

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO USICA WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5442
ZNE RHODES RELAY STATION

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USICA

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: LORAN MONITORING STATION, RHODES

1. PAO HAS DISCUSSED WITH AMBASSADOR AND RELEVANT EMBASSY OFFICERS THE REQUEST FOR EMBASSY CONCURRENCE, FORWARDED BY VOA RHODES RELAY STATION MANAGER MENNIT, CONCERNING THE U.S. COAST GUARD PROPOSAL TO INSTALL A FULLY AUTOMATED LORAN MONITORING FACILITY AT THE VOA RHODES SITE. THE MISSION IS PLEASED THAT THE COAST GUARD PLANS TO DISBAND ITS EXISTING MANNED LORAN STATION AT TRIANDA, RHODES, SINCE ITS CLOSING WILL REDUCE BY ONE AMERICAN FACILITIES IN GREECE.

2. IF ICA WASHINGTON AGREES THAT VOA RHODES SHOULD HOUSE THE NEW EQUIPMENT, THE EMBASSY ALSO CONCURS, PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS MATTER IS FIRST BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE GOG AND THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT AGREES TO MODIFY THE 1958 EXCHANGE OF NOTES THAT ESTABLISHED THE STATION.

THIS PROPOSAL CAN BE BROUGHT UP WHEN WE MEET GOG TO RENEGOTIATE VOA AGREEMENT IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

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3. ONE FURTHER SUGGESTION FOR ICA AND U.S. COAST GUARD CONSIDERATION IS THE POSSIBILITY OF OFFERING THE NEW LORAN FACILITY DIRECTLY TO THE GOG. SINCE THE LORAN STATION IS AN IMPORTANT NAVIGATIONAL AID THAT BENEFITS ALL SHIP-PING IN THE AREA, THE OFFER MIGHT BE ONE THE GOG WOULD ACCEPT. IN THIS CONTEXT WE MIGHT ALSO OFFER TO HOUSE THE AUTOMATED EQUIPMENT AT VOA RHODES, WITH EITHER GREEK

OR VOA TECHNICIANS OPERATING AND MAINTAINING THE
EQUIPMENT.

4. EMBASSY REQUESTS AGENCY'S VIEWS.
HARATUNIAN

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Message Attributes

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